

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 ABF-01

AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 EPA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2360

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DEPT PASS TO DHEW/PHS/FDA - DR. TAYLOR, K.E. AND
DHEW/PHS/OIH - MRS. VOGEL, LINDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, OSCI

SUBJECT: DHEW/PHS/FDA/SFCP - PROJECT 01-617-4 "AFLATOXIN
TOXICITY IN NON-HUMAN PRIMATES"

REF: STATE 135404 NEW DELHI 7839

1. WE HAVE LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT (A) SUBJECT PROJECT IS STILL
UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION; (B) INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL
RESEARCH (ICMR) HAS RECOMMENDED THE PROJECT FOR ACCEPTANCE TO
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

2. REPRODUCED BELOW IS ICMR'S RECOMMENDATION TO MINISTRY OF
HEALTH WHICH EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED ON UNOFFICIAL BASIS.

QUOTE THE PROBLEM OF AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IS IMPORTANT AND
THIS STUDY SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE SUPPORTED. HOWEVER, THE AMOUNT
OF DOLS 10,000 EARMARKED FOR IMPORTAING AFLATOXIN FROM ABROAD
MAY, PERHAPS, BE BETTER USED FOR DEVELOPING A MYCOLOGY LABORATORY
WHICH COULD DEAL WITH FUGAL TOXINS, SO THAT AT LEAST FOR OUR
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FURTURE REQUIREMENTS OF AFLATOXIN FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES, WE

MAY NOT BE DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES. IT IS, THEREFORE, PROPOSED THAT THIS SCHEME MAY BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT. SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT COULD INCLUDE (A) STUDY OF AFLATOXIN TOXICOLOGY IN NON-HUMAN PRIMATES AT THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED, (B) CONTROL OF AFLATOXIN PROBLEM THROUGH IDENTIFICATION OF GENETICALLY RESISTANT STRAINS OF GROUND NUT AND OTHER DEVICES AND (C) SEARCH FOR FUNGAL TOXINS OTHER THAN AFLATOXIN IN FOOD STUFFS, IN COMMON USE IN THE COUNTRY. STUDY ON THE LATTER TWO ITEMS COULD BE CARRIED OUT AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION, HYDERABAD, SINCE THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THIS TYPE OF STUDY ALREADY EXISTS THERE. IF THIS PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, THIS WILL MEAN THAT THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE TO BE DOUBLED. THE ALLOCATION MAY BE RAISED TO 500,000 RUPEES OF WHICH 230,000 RUPEES MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AS REQUESTED IN THE PROPOSAL, AND THE REST TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION FOR CARRYING OUT STUDIES ON ITEMS (B) AND (C) ABOVE. THE PERIOD OF STUDY MAY REMAIN AS THREE YEARS, AND THE PROJECT MAY BE DESIGNATED AS "COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT ON MYCOTOXINS IN FOODS" UNDER THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ICMR. UNQUOTE

3. THE LATTER PROPOSAL UNOFFICIALLY MADE AVAILABLE TO US BY ICMR IS BEING AIRPOUCHED.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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